(vii) To advise on the suitability of financing, partly or wholly, seminars, which maybe organised to discuss indentified development problems;

(viii) To build up internal research capacity of the Planning Commission and undertake research studies internally towards this end;

(ix) To coordinate the research and consultancy activities undertaken/sponsored by the different Divisions of the Planning Commission as well as those relevant to planning undertaken/sponsored by other Central Ministries and other agencies;

(x) To coordinate information and data systems of Ministries and different government agencies (including NIC) and utilisation of their data base for Planning and Policy purposes;

(xi) To support development of methodologies for planning exercise at the State and lower levels and promote training in the methodology of decentralised planning; and

(xii) to advise on any other matter relevant or incidental to the discharge of the above functions.

Since all projects are commented upon by independent eminent experts the question of Planning Commission being taken for a ride by the grantee Institutions does not arise.

[Translation]

Open Sale of Wheat

4773. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to stop the sale of wheat in the open market since April 1,1997;

(b) if so, whether the present price of wheat in the open market is more as compared to the Central Issue Price declared by the Government;

(c) if so, the Central Issue Price and open market price of wheat; and

(d) the reasons for stopping the sale of the wheat in the open market despite its price being more?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As the open sale of wheat from the Central pool has been stopped with effect from 1.4.1997, the question regarding rate of open sale wheat does not arise.

(c) Central Issue Price of wheat for PDS is Rs. 402 per quintal, which is effective upto 31st May, 1997.

(d) Wheat is sold under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) subject to its availability after meeting the requirements of PDS/RPDS and other welfare schemes of the Government. Due to limited availability of wheat in the Central Pool, the open sale scheme has been discontinued with effect from 1.4.1997.

[English]

Wheat Crisis

4774. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased of state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the newsitem captioned "Wheat crisis rooted in Government policies" appearing in the 'Business Standard', New Delhi, dated April 19, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the steps taken to procure wheat for the Public Distribution System from the Mandis in Punjab and Haryana; and

(d) the buffer stock policy of the Government to meet the cyclical fluctuations in the price of wheat?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item contains the views of a former Chairman of the Agriculture Price Commission in which he has blamed Government policies for the so-called wheat crisis. It is claimed that the decision to import wheat had induced the farmers to demand a higher Minimum Support Price of foodgrains. Criticising the Government decision to import wheat, he has, *inter-alia*, demanded scrapping of the public distribution system in its present form.

(c) The provisional number of purchase centres being operated by FCI and State Governments Agencies in Punjab and Haryana in the Rabi Marketing Season 1997-98 is 1010 and 429, respectively. All other administrative and financial arrangements have been made as usual to ensure that procurement operations are conducted smoothly. The Government has announced a Central bonus of Rs. 60 per quintal in addition to the Minimum Support Price of Rs. 415 per quintal for wheat sold to

Government procurement agencies upto 10.6.1997, which means an increase of 25% in the procurement price over the price paid in the previous season. Control Rooms have been set up both at State level as well as in the Ministry to make sure that no distress sale of wheat by farmers below the price fixed by the Government takes place. The procurement is progressing smoothly and a total quantity of 14.33 lakh tonnes and 5.11 lakh quantity of 14.33 lakh tonnes and 5.11 lakh tonnes of wheat has already been procured in Punjab and Haryana, respectively, upto 2.5.97.

(d) Under the Buffer stocking policy, an important plank of the plan for National Food Security, the Government has fixed minimum level of stock to be maintained by the public agencies on different dates. The buffer norms so fixed are used as trigger mechanism to increase the Central stocks through procurement or imports or decrease the same through open sale of foodgrains or export, depending on the actual stock level and the requirement of foodgrains for Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes etc. The minimum buffer stocks of foodgrains that should be maintained in the Central Pool are as under:

(in lakh tonnes)

As on	Rice	Wheat
1st April of the year	108	37
1st July of the year	92	131
1st October of the year	60	106
1st January of the year	77	77

[Translation]

Per-Capita Income

4775. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the per-capita income of different States/Union Territories, as compared to the National per-capita income during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the measures taken by the Government to increase the per capita income; and

(c) the names of the States whose per-capita income is below the national per-capita income and the names of the States whose per-capita income is above the national per-capita income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The States/Union Territory-wise per capita income as measured by the per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) at constant price alongwith All-India per capita Net National Product (NNP) and per cpaita National Domestic Product at factor cost at constant prices for the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The State Governments are implementing development plans for increasing income. The Central Government provide Central Assistance for State Plans according to a formula in which higher weightage is given to the States which have lower per capita income.

(c) Owing to the difference in source materials used, figures of per capita income of States/Union Territories are not strictly comparable.

Statement

State/UT-wise per capita net State domestic product at constant prices (as on 1.4.1997)

(Rs.)

Sl. No.	State / UT	Per capita NSDP at 1980-81 prices during 1993-94 (P)	1994-95 (P)	1995-96 (Q)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1871	1839	1913
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3369	3426	3592
3.	Assam	1583	1602	1593
4.	Bihar	1034	1098	1149
5.	Goa	5459	5341	-
6.	Gujarat	2960	3293	3172
7.	Haryana	3498	3674	3670
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2315	2395	2518
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1832	-	-
10.	Karnataka	2394	2420	2425
11.	Kerala	2114	2246	2353
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1731	1749	1784
13.	Maharashtra	4057	4227	4500
14.	Manipur	1921	-	-
15.	Meghalaya	1698	1835	1714
16.	Nagaland	2170	-	-
17.	Orissa	1543	1569	1630